

STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1908.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the
year ending December 31st, 1908.

AREA OF PARISH OF STREET—2918 acres.

POPULATION—Census 1901, 4018. Estimated to middle of 1908 at 4,330.

GEOLOGY—Lower lias, consisting of alternating beds of limestones, clays and marls.

OCCUPATION— Principally Boot and Shoemaking, Leather-Board Factory, Chrome Tanning,
Agricultural, Limestone Quarries in the district.

BIRTH-RATE—90 births registered (48 males—42 females), giving a *birth-rate* of 20.5 per
1000 per annum.

Of the births 2 are illegitimate—both males.

DEATH-RATE—50 deaths registered(24 males—26 females) giving a *death-rate* of 11.4 per
1000 per annum. (Two deaths in addition to the above of residents were registered
outside the district).

ZYMOTIC RATE—One death registered from Zymotic disease, giving a zymotic *death-rate*
of 0.22 per 1000 living.

THE INFANT MORTALITY PER 1000 BIRTHS is 66.6.—six deaths under 1 year being registered.

For the Year, 1907:

Birth-rate per 1000 living	...	...	...	19.6
Death-rate „ „	...	...	...	7.6
Zymotic Rate „ „	...	...	...	0.46
Infant Mortality per 1000 births	...	...	...	82.3

Average Rates from 1898 to 1907 (inclusive):

Births	...	...	99.1	Rate	23.44
Deaths	...	...	48.3	„	11.4
Deaths under 1 year	...	...	10.6	„	109.23 per 1000 Births.

Ages Table of Deaths:

Under 1 year there were 6 deaths.

1 and under 5 years there were 2 deaths.

5 „ 15 „ „ „ 2 „

15 „ 25 „ „ „ 1 „

25 „ 65 „ „ „ 2 „

65 and upwards „ „ 24 „ viz., at the ages of 65, 66, 67, 67, 69,

69, 69, 70, 72, 73, 73, 73, 73, 74, 74, 77, 79, 79, 79, 80, 84, 87, 88, 88 years.

Causes of Death during the Year.

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	7
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	7
Accidents	...	...	...	...	1
Senile Decay	...	...	...	...	7
Cerebral Hoemorrhage	...	...	...	...	3
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	1
Debility from Birth	...	...	...	...	1
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	11
					—
					Total 50

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water from Rodney Stoke emanating from the Mendip Hills has again been plentiful during the year, and of excellent quality. The benefit accruing to the district through this constant supply is incalculable and is highly appreciated. The water is now laid on to some 650 houses in addition to supplying Godney and part of Polsham in the Wells Rural District. I would again urge that every house in this district within available reach of this supply should be connected therewith.

SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

The town is now sewered throughout. The sewers being periodically flushed under the direction of the Surveyor. The disposal of the sewage at the Sewage Farm by means of irrigation, as in previous years, continues to work satisfactorily. The Farm covers over 40 acres of land in extent, from which good crops of osiers and roots are secured; a considerable part also, which is in the Council's hands, will be put down to grass. Owing to the nature of soil (peat) the effluent is clear and entirely satisfactory. No complaint of the pollution of the stream into which the effluent flows has been received during the year.

Flushing cisterns are fixed to many of the W.C's. in the district some houses continue the unsatisfactory system of hand flushing. I would again express the hope that before long *all* will be supplied with a proper flushing apparatus. Only a few earth closets now exist in the district, most having been connected with the sewers.

SCAVENGING.

Supervision is exercised by the Surveyor over the ash and refuse heaps, and in many instances these are removed under his directions by the Council's orders. In some cases the ashes are utilised in the gardens adjoining the houses. The Surveyor also directs a staff of men who attend to the roads, &c.

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE.

Influenza and pulmonary diseases prevailed to a large extent during the months of January, February, March, April, May and December. In January a case of Idiopathic Erysipelas was notified. In September and October, young children especially suffered from coughs, colds, &c. In July and August, several cases of Measles occurred, and in the later month a case of Diphtheria was notified, unfortunately proving fatal. During the months of October, November and December five cases of Scarlatina were notified, all of a mild type. In no instances were insanitary conditions found in the houses of any of the cases notified.

The death roll for the year is heavy in comparison with the previous one. The Infant Mortality is slightly lower, six deaths being registered against seven in 1907, none of these six being due to hygienic or dietetic neglect.

It is noteworthy also that no less than 24 out of the 50 deaths registered were in persons over the age of 65 years, and of those 24, 8 were from 65 to 70, 12 were from 70 to 80, 4 being upwards of 80 years of age. Cancer or Malignant Disease claimed 4 victims, and Heart Diseases 7.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Joint Hospital for Glastonbury and Street, situated about midway between the two places, in the Urban District of Glastonbury, a nurse-caretaker and husband in charge.

The number of diseases that can be concurrently treated is two, *e.g.*, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Total available beds, ten. Except in cases of a severe epidemic, the accommodation, so far, has proved ample.

The premises are in excellent order, fenced in, with a Thresh's Disinfector, and properly equipped discharge-block. An ambulance for joint use kept on the premises.

One case of Scarlet Fever from this district was admitted during the year.

DISINFECTION MEANS.

Thresh's Disinfector at the Hospital. This has also been used for disinfecting the bedding, clothes, &c., in certain cases not removed to Hospital, also the bedding, &c., in a case of Phthisis.

Fumigation of premises in cases of home isolation is carried out by sulphur-dioxide or formaldehyde the rooms of deceased phthisical cases also being fumigated.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No Common Lodging House exists in the district.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The number of Dairies and Cowsheds on the register, and inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself, is 20. The Dairies are regularly limewashed and are in good order. Instructions for the limewashing of the Cowsheds are given when necessary. Most of the cows in the district are kept out to grass during the greater part of the year. The milk and butter supply of the district is plentiful and of good quality and reasonable in price. No case of Tuberculous milk has come to my knowledge.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES (4) AND BAKEHOUSES (8).

Both are visited and inspected and limewashed regularly. Supervision over the meat supply is exercised by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself. In two instances unwholesome meat was destroyed by the Inspector's orders. The Slaughter Houses have a plentiful supply of water and the drainage is good. The regular removal of offal is insisted upon.

No further action under the Sale of Food Acts has been taken or needed.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

House to house inspection has been made by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself. One case of overcrowding has been dealt with. The house accommodation in the district is good, and with a few exceptions the premises are kept clean and well ventilated. Gardens are attached to most of the houses and pride taken in the culture of flowers and garden produce. In a few instances (9) swine have been kept within the proscribed limit (100 feet from dwelling house) and these have been removed.

Supervision is exercised over the erection of new houses by the Council and Surveyor.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

Inspections under these Acts have been made by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself. A register of Workshops is kept. With very few exceptions all are kept in good order with no insanitary conditions existing. We have also visited the several Factories in the district with reference to their sanitation, ventilation, means of escape in case of fire and the provision of suitable sanitary convenience. As will be noted from the Inspector of Nuisances' report, considerable up-to-date sanitary accommodation has been provided in the principal factory in this district, and in two other instances notices have been served to increase the sanitary accommodation.

BYE-LAWS.

Full code in force.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

There is one large Public School in the district, also a separate School for infants at Overleigh, under the Somerset County Council and Education Committee, the Local Authority being vested in School Managers. Inspection of some of the children has been made by the Medical Inspector appointed by the County Council. The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools is good. In the case of known cases of infectious disease amongst the scholars, attendance at school is prohibited until the period of infection is over. No serious outbreak of infectious disease has occurred during the year.

The notification of cases of Tuberculosis is not officially carried out in the district, though most cases come to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. No hospital accommodation is provided for such cases. In some instances however a limited number of patients have been sent to Winsley Sanatorium through local subscribers, returning with marked benefit.

As previously stated in this report three deaths from Phthisis have occurred during the year, the bedrooms, bedding, &c., being disinfected afterwards by the Inspector of Nuisances, and instructions given for the thorough cleansing of the rooms.

I append Tables of Statistics as required by the Local Government Board; together with the detailed report of the Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. James Pursey), to whose zealous co-operation I am again greatly indebted.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE W. EGLINTON.

STREET, Somerset, January 27th, 1909

STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Inspector's Annual Report for year ending December 31st, 1908.

Number of Inspections and Re-inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.,	...	...	97
" " " of Houses, &c., respecting Water Supply	...	...	431
" " " of Workrooms and Workshops	...	...	185
" " Houses overcrowded	...	...	1
" " Houses disinfected after illness of infectious character	..	..	3
HOUSE DRAINS :—			
Repaired, cleaned, &c.	...	...	17
New provided	...	...	6
Defective gully traps replaced by stoneware gully traps	...	...	13
WATER CLOSETS :—			
Repaired, cleaned &c.	...	...	8
New provided	...	...	2
Earth closets converted in Water Closets	...	...	6
Earth closets cleansed and repaired	...	...	3
Cesspool in filthy condition, cleansed &c.	...	...	1
New flushing appliance to Urinals	...	...	1
Swine removed being kept within limited distance of dwelling houses	...	...	9
Swine removed being improperly kept	...	...	2
Removals of accumulations of dung, manure, &c.	...	...	8
Sewers and drains fouled by foreign matter	...	...	2
Lots of unwholesome meat destroyed	...	...	2
Number of Bakehouses periodically inspected	...	..	10
" " Dairies and Cowsheds	..	...	20
" " Slaughter houses,	..	...	5
" " Factories Inspected	...	...	4

In the case of Messrs. C. & J. Clark's Ltd., Boot and Shoe Factory, the sanitary arrangements have been greatly increased and remodelled, and the latest and best apparatus installed, two new blocks of buildings having been erected for the purpose.

Notices have been served on the owners of two other factories to increase and modernize their sanitary arrangements.

JAMES PURSEY,
Inspector of Nuisances.

Jan. 22nd, 1909.